

# Legend's Past Explored

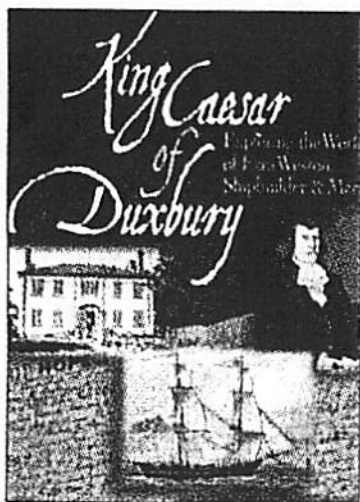
King Caesar comes to life in new DR&HS book

By MORAG MACLACHLAN

It's been decades since Ezra Weston, better known as King Caesar, ran his shipping empire in town. Remnants of his popular past can still be seen with the preservation of the King Caesar house located on King Caesar Road.

Now this Duxbury legend comes to life in the pages of a new book written by Patrick Browne, executive director of the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society.

"It's the biggest name in Duxbury's history. He has the biggest claim to fame,"



**DR&HS director Patrick Browne penned his first book on the legend of King Caesar.**

Browne said. "It's important to understand the scope of his business and what he did in town. I wanted to humanize a local legend."

*King Caesar of Duxbury* will be released on Dec. 1. Browne said no personal records, like a journal existed. Instead, his book is based on business records.

"The book is less about his personal life and more about his fleet and his shipyard," Browne said.

Browne said he was inspired to write the book

continued on page 11

continued from page one

because of all the generalizations made about King Caesar. Browne used business records from the society's archives along with family photos and records loaned by residents.

"Even though there was no personal history, you can still get into his head," Browne said.

There were actually two King Caesars...Ezra Weston and his son of the same name. The story begins before the revolution with the older Weston and his shipbuilding business. Weston's son becomes a partner in the business in 1798. Browne said the two ran the business together until the older Weston's death in 1822.

When the younger Weston takes full control of the business, he transforms the company into an enormous financial success. Under Weston's direction, huge sailing ships were constructed on the shore of Duxbury. These ships were then used for trading.

"The Weston name was known all around the Atlantic," Browne said. "He did very well and made a huge fortune."

Browne said Weston wasn't the only shipbuilder in Duxbury; however, his busi-

ness far surpassed the competition by the 1830s. The younger Weston was also the family member that lived in the King Caesar house. Although Browne didn't mind revealing a brief overview of the book, he said people would have to buy it to discover how the Weston men earned the nickname King Caesar.

The book will be for sale beginning Dec. 1 at Westwinds Bookshop. Browne said the pre-publication price is \$24.95. After its release, the book will cost \$29.95. Anyone interested in pre-ordering a copy can call the society at 781-934-6106. All of the money generated by the sale of the book will go back to the society.

The book is 144 pages with 100 full color photos. It's Browne's first book. He is grateful to graphic designer Norman Forgit for helping design and lay out the book.

"I'd like to do other books," Browne said. "There's plenty to write about."

Pre-ordered books can be picked up at Browne's book-signing set for Saturday, Dec. 3 at the King Caesar House from 4-6 p.m.